

REMARKS

Applicant requests reexamination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-18, and 20-38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lawman, U.S. Patent 5,673,198.

Claim 1 includes “maintaining a circuit design parameter file... monitoring a design environment... accessing a component design parameter file that specifies at least one design parameter for that added circuitry component, updating a circuit design parameter file based on the at least one design parameter included in the component design parameter file; and providing the circuit designer with feedback...” Claim 1 is not anticipated by Lawman.

Lawman discloses a system that monitors a design environment to detect the addition of a circuit component, and “in response to each change produce[s] implementation data on an incremental basis” (col. 2, lines 51-43). The implementation data (also referred to as an implementation netlist 34) is the actual implementation of the logic represented by the circuit and can be used to run simulations of the circuit (e.g., to produce data about physical characteristics of the circuit). Thus, Lawman maintains and updates a netlist or implementation of the circuit and does not disclose or suggest “maintaining a circuit design parameter file for a circuit being designed, the circuit design parameter file specifying a physical characteristic of the circuit” as in the applicant’s claim 1.

In addition, Lawman also discloses analyzing the implementation data to produce feedback to be displayed (see col. 3, lines 22-32). Lawman’s feedback process is based on processing the netlist or implementation data and, thus, the processing time can vary dependent on the type of element added. For example, “if the designer enters a CPU block or other major design component, the processing may be considerable” (col. 9, lines 36-38). This process of analyzing the netlist or implementation data is substantially different from the method of claim 1 that includes “accessing a component design parameter file that specifies at least one design parameter for that added circuitry component, updating a circuit design parameter file based on the at least one design parameter included in the component design parameter file.”

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With respect to claims 18, 35 and 37, claim 18 relates to an estimation process, claim 35 relates to a computer program, and claim 37 relates to a processor and memory. Claims 18, 35, and 37 all include limitations similar to claim 1 and thus, claims 18, 35 and 37 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

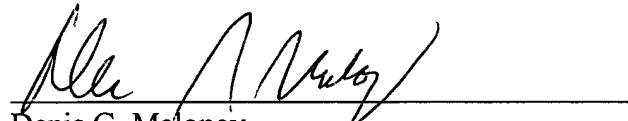
Claims 3-17, 20-35, and 36 are patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims on which they depend.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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